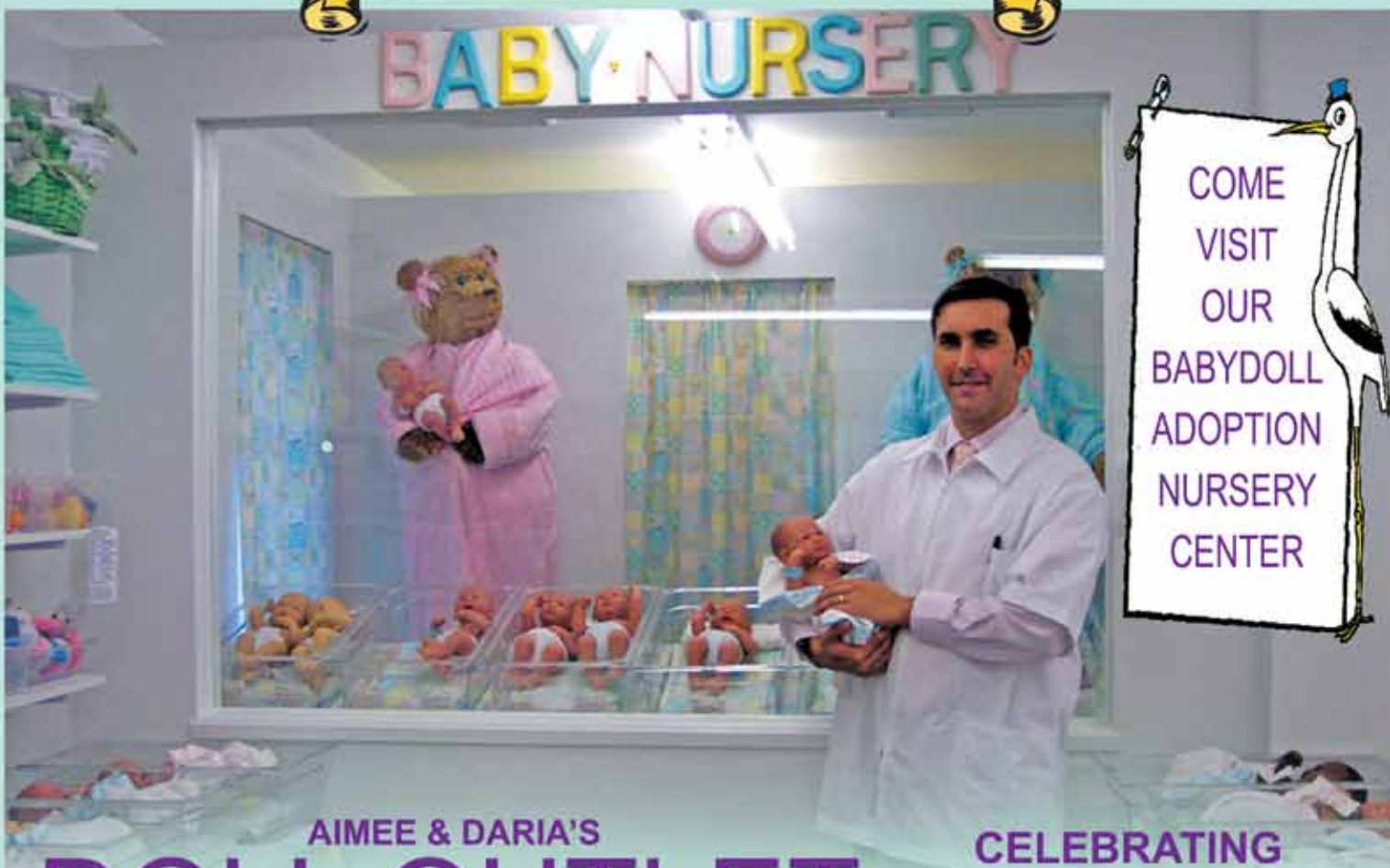




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While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 50 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

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part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to collectibles, T-shirts, small wood crafts, local jams, jellies, and honey, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week 9am-9pm. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687-0111.

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While visiting Lancaster County, make sure you stop in at the DOLL OUTLET. It is located on Rt 30 east, one mile east past the Rockvale Outlets.

Just look for the big white building, with bright purple awnings, surrounded by beautiful Amish farm lands. The DOLL OUTLET is the largest doll store within 1,000 miles of Lancaster, Pa. Over 5,000 dolls in stock, from 2" tall, up to 42" tall. Prices range from \$2.00 up to \$1,300.00. A doll for everyone at a price everyone can afford. You'll find dolls from a variety of different major doll companies. Their selection includes porcelain dolls, limited edition artist collectable dolls, vinyl play baby dolls and Amish dolls.

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Brenda and Aimee Sheaffer (Mother & Daughter duo from the DOLL OUTLET)

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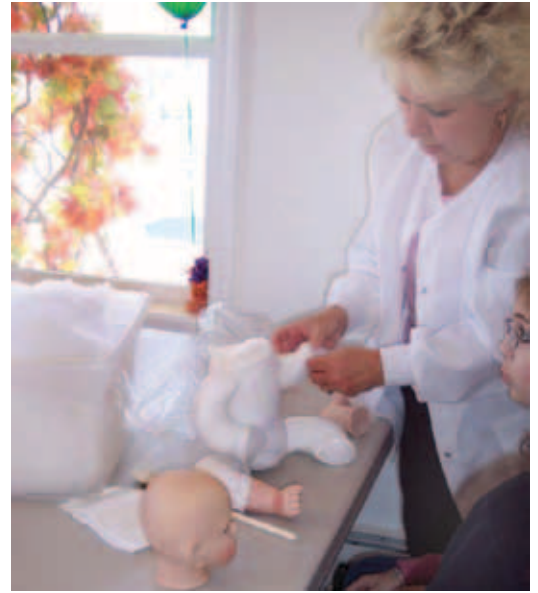
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Amish Peanut Butter Schmier...An Intercourse Canning Company Specialty

by Clinton Martin

Quite fitting, actually, that at the Intercourse Canning Company the Amish Peanut Butter Schmier sells like hotcakes – it spreads ever so perfectly when added to the light and fluffy breakfast bite. In fact, the locally

adored Schmier is the perfect accompaniment to just about any member of the bread family.

The folks at Intercourse Canning Company have been packing jars with the rich and creamy peanut-buttery spread for years, steadily bring-

ing the sweet Pa Dutch indulgence to a wider audience. The recipe, while a closely guarded secret, is typical of most Amish goodies. Simple goodness mixed with a touch of this and a dash of that. The finished product captures the rich taste of roasted peanuts with an added hint of sweetness to create a spread that is one part hearty topping, one part decadent dessert.

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Beverly Lewis Hit Musical is Back on Bird-in-Hand Stage

Special to Amish Country News

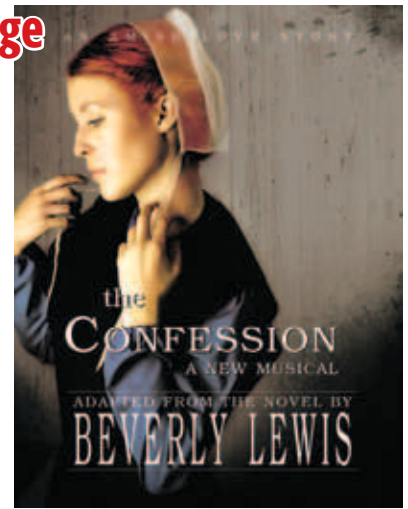
Through November 30 Beverly Lewis' inspiring Amish love story, **THE CONFESSION**, is being performed on the Bird-in-Hand Stage on the lower level of the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord. The entertaining hit musical premiered last Fall to sellout crowds with more than 13,000 tickets already sold for this season.

"We're excited to bring this wonderful story again to our Bird-in-Hand Stage," said Bird-in-Hand Corporation's co-owner John Smucker. "Our family was honored to host more than

10,000 people at last year's opening season. **THE CONFESSION** gives us one more way to show hospitality to our guests."

A captivating story of a young Amish woman caught in the middle of secrets and scandal, **THE CONFESSION** shares a tale of love lost and found and personal heartache and healing. Pulling its story line from three books written by NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author Beverly Lewis, **THE CONFESSION** musical weaves the lives of characters she first introduced in **THE SHUNNING**, **THE CONFESSION** and **THE RECKONING**. It's clear why the Lancaster County native has been proclaimed "the queen of [Amish fiction]" by USA TODAY.

Continued on Page 18



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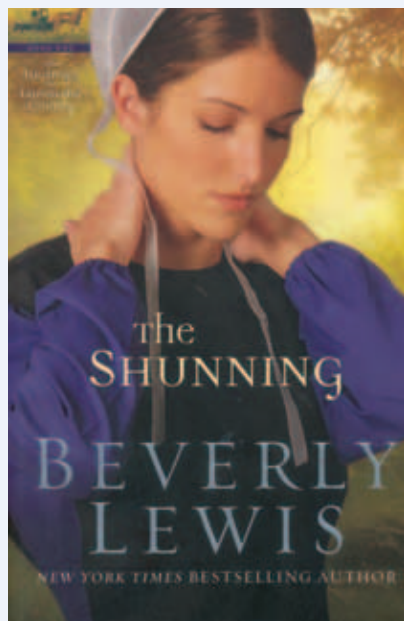
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THE AMISH IN THE MEDIA - Second Edition

by Brad Igou



This Beverly Lewis book of 1997 got the Amish romance novel juggernaut rolling.

Romance, Amish-style

Amish romance novels have been the rage for several years. You need only look through our pages to see some of the many titles on bookstands. It is literally a multi-million dollar business. In fact, there is a book soon to be published on the history of the Amish literary phenomenon. Last year, author Valerie Weaver-Zercher's lecture titled "The Thrill of the Chaste" previewed her research. Here are some notes from her lecture...

With very rare exception, Amish based fiction is not written by Amish, including books without romantic theme in the genres of sci-fi, paranormal, vampire, and my favorite title, KORNWOLF by Tristan Egolf, about "a boy who morphs into a werewolf resembling Richard Nixon."

Weaver-Zercher sees several main strands running through the romance novels: a rural particularism, the romance theme plot (chaste, heterosexual), religious devotion and evangelical piety. However, what instigated the immense popularity of Amish romance novels?

In the 1970's, general romance novels took off, with Harlequin novels reaching \$75 million in sales by 1977. By 1999, half of the trade paperbacks sold were romance novels. However, the steamier

In this, the third article in my series, I give a broad, personal overview of how Amish appear in diverse media, past and present. When I took on the task of talking in general about Amish in the media in this feature, I wasn't sure how I'd pull it off; after all, whole books have been written on the subject matter. I decided to simply jump in and offer observations, my own and those of others, with a look at the mediums in which Amish most commonly appear.

the novels became, the less appeal they had for Christian women readers.

In the mid-1990's, Beverly Lewis, a writer of children's stories, approached Bethany House about publishing an adult novel, loosely based on the life of her maternal grandmother. Released somewhat reluctantly, THE SHUNNING sold over a million copies. It became a Lifetime movie (2.9 million viewers), and is now part of the musical THE CONFESSION, which is currently playing here at the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant. In 2011, Lewis' titles numbered 80 with 14 million sold in 11 languages. A new series starts in 2012.

Linda Byler, an Amish author exception, first self-published her "Lizzie Books," popular with many Amish, from which Good Books has assembled a trilogy of her works. Her books understandably have a different feel, structure, and voice.

Interestingly, there is a cross-fertilization between tourism and Amish novels, with visitors wanting to read an Amish-themed book when they return home, and those who first read a novel deciding to visit Amish Country. Of course, movies and TV fit this model as well.

Amish on the Great White Way

Mention must be made briefly of the 1955 Broadway musical PLAIN & FANCY, which helped jump-start tourism here in Lancaster County, PA. This old-fashioned tuneful musical is full of stereotypes, but nonetheless enjoyable and still performed today. A few years

ago a cast of out-of-state high school students performing the show arrived at Plain & Fancy Farm (where else?) for a farmlands tour and to observe Amish Country firsthand.

Romances, misunderstandings, and family differences carry the storyline through humorous and dramatic scenes, contrasting a visiting big city couple with simple Amish farmers. Although some of the situations are stretched beyond belief, at least the show is an equal opportunity offender, at times poking more fun at the expense of the city slickers than the Amish. My advice is your first choice for accurate Amish information probably should not be a Broadway musical.

The Silver Screen Goes Plain

Co-incidentally, the year 1955 marked the first time I am aware that Amish were incorporated into a Hollywood film. VIOLENT SATURDAY was a film noir directed by Richard Fleischer about a bank robbery gone wrong in a small town. When the robbers hide out on an Amish farm, the farmer played by Ernest Borgnine is forced to resort to violence to save his family. The theme of the peaceful Amish mired in events and crimes of a violent modern world was thus established and has remained popular ever since.

And then there was WITNESS. This 1985 Harrison Ford blockbuster really was the complete package... scenically magnificent, a romantic thriller, beautifully produced and acted, that put the clash of the two cultures and their respective values into an intriguing, if improbable, story directed by Peter Weir and filmed here in Amish Country.

The Playbill from the 1955 Broadway show PLAIN & FANCY, a musical still performed today.





The 1955 film VIOLENT SATURDAY was the first of many Hollywood films with Amish involved in a crime story.

off as a distant Amish relative. Not unlike the Broadway musical, much of the fun comes from the fact that this wealthy, spoiled couple's poor behavior and attitudes contrast so starkly with the "plain and simple" Amish.

Like WITNESS, this film reinforces the stereotypical wonders of a pastoral existence contrasted with the stresses of a modern world. As Allen works the fields with one of the Amish men, he is told, "The English view us as hiding from reality. But this is reality. It is not we who are hiding."

Amish on the Little Screen

There have actually been many more portrayals of the Amish on television than in the movies. There was even an entire Amish series in 1988 called AARON'S WAY on NBC. The storyline was a little hard to swallow... Amish boy runs away from home. Becomes a surfer in California. Dies in surfing accident. Leaves behind pregnant wife. Amish family moves to California to take care of wife and baby... and run a vineyard. It's the kind of stuff that happens to the Amish all the time!

The CBS-TV series MURDER, SHE WROTE had what is probably one of the single worst stories involving Amish characters that I've seen. Angela Lansberry's character, Jessica, is visiting Lancaster County, ends up on an Amish farm and discovers a dead body the next morning. It's a long story, with various sub-plots and suspects, but Jessica finally discovers that the murdered Amishman was having an affair with an Amish woman. She threatens to reveal him. As luck would have it, when he attacks her, he accidentally falls on a pitchfork she was using to defend herself. Another typical day in Amish Country.

A 1996 episode of PICKET FENCES, created by the well-known David E. Kelley, is a surprisingly compelling courtroom drama centered about Hannah Beiler, an Amish girl who is attacked on a trip to town. In "To Forgive is Devine," the plot explores "respect for religious conviction vs. the welfare of community."

Since the Amish do not prosecute in court, the elders do not permit Hannah to testify or press charges against her attacker. "We condemn the sin, not the sinner." The accused

The plot of NBC's 1988 AARON'S WAY involved an Amish family running a vineyard in California after their runaway teenage son dies in a surfing accident.

is released and attacks a non-Amish girl whose father sues the elders claiming his daughter's attack was the result of Hannah not being permitted to testify.

In a melodramatic conclusion, as the jury is handing down its verdict of "not guilty," the police are chasing the fugitive attacker through town on foot. He comes face-to-face with Hannah as her family is leaving court. He asks Hannah for forgiveness as he is gunned down by the police.

Last month I discussed the Amish plots in episodes of MACGYVER (1988) and BONES (2009). You can read my musings online at www.AmishNews.com.

Amish Made For TV Movies

A made-for-TV, post-WITNESS Amish themed movie, the 1996 Hallmark Hall of Fame drama, HARVEST OF FIRE attempted to mix a sensitive portrayal of the Amish with a detective story. "Two women, two worlds. A crime they couldn't imagine. A friendship they never expected."

The similarities to WITNESS are obvious. The Amish widow, Annie Beiler, is played by Patty Duke. The detective from the outside world, FBI agent Sally Russell is played by Lolita Davidovich. Here the shocking crime is a series of barn burnings in the community, obviously inspired by the 1992 arsonist-set Amish barn fires in Pennsylvania, actually investigated by the FBI as a hate crime.

It turns out the arsonist is a shunned Amish boy. As he is taken downtown to court, the Amish community rallies behind him. Annie tells Sally to "Despise the sin, not the sinner," basically the same line as in PICKET FENCES. She concludes that "We make mistakes, but when one of us falls in his journey, we help him up."

Continued on Pg. 19



In the excellent book THE AMISH AND THE MEDIA, authors Diane Zimmerman Umble and David Weaver-Zercher note that "WITNESS continues to be the most influential media representation of the Amish ever produced." The authors observe that "instructing viewers about the intricacies of Amish life was not the primary intent," but nonetheless "more people have learned about the Amish from WITNESS than from any other media portrayal of Amish life."

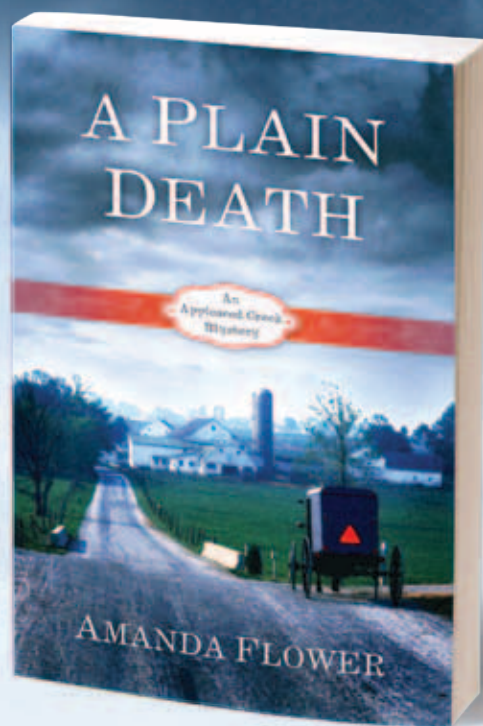
Indeed, a few years ago, a columnist for the NEW YORK POST wrote that "everything I know about the Amish, I learned from the old Harrison Ford movie, WITNESS," and tours to the "Witness farm," now Amish owned, remain popular over 25 years later!

Following the film's release, a reviewer for TIME magazine noted the movie taught a valuable lesson --- that people of different cultures could meet and be enriched by their friendship, without destroying or radically changing each other's way of life.

After WITNESS, Amish began to appear in TV shows and more movies. As for Hollywood, the plots basically went downhill after WITNESS. It was only a matter of time before goofy, gross-out comedies with Amish in the plot would be made. 1996's KINGPIN proclaimed it was "from the idiots what brung you DUMB AND DUMBER," so you can pretty much guess what you are in for.

Having seen some success with the Amish farce notion, someone must have decided a more "mainstream" comedy was in order. FOR RICHER OR POORER, starring Tim Allen and Kirstie Alley, references WITNESS more than once. The story involves rich New Yorkers trying to evade the IRS by taking refuge on an Amish farm with Allen passing himself

In Appleseed Creek, the heart of Ohio's Amish Country, life is not as serene as it seems.



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Meet the Tour Guides... Tour Guide Passes Stiff Test

by Clinton Martin



Shannon Bishop is new to the Amish Experience and tour guiding, having started her formal training late in 2011. Before she joined the Amish Experience team, Shannon worked as a child-care professional and a teacher, making her especially well-suited to guiding student groups.

Every spring, thousands of youth from all over the world come to Amish Country for field trips led by the certified guide force of the Amish Experience.

When one such school made their annual trip this past spring, Shannon happened to be assigned as the guide. She led the group on a tour of the Old Order Amish Country Homestead and gave an introduction before the showing of "Jacob's Choice" in the Amish Experience Theatre. The staff and students clearly enjoyed their experience, but it was the reaction of the group's special guests that made this particular tour so memorable.

The school was accompanied by an Amish family, having befriended them at some point during a previous Amish Country trip. The family had joined the group for the guided tour of the Homestead.

As Shannon recalls, "I was still a fairly new guide and had only recently been approved for my shuttle farmlands tours, but I had not yet been assigned a school group, so this was a first for me. That a family of Amish were on tour with them was, in a way, terrifying to me, as I wondered if I could remember all that I had been taught and if I could relate it all accurately!

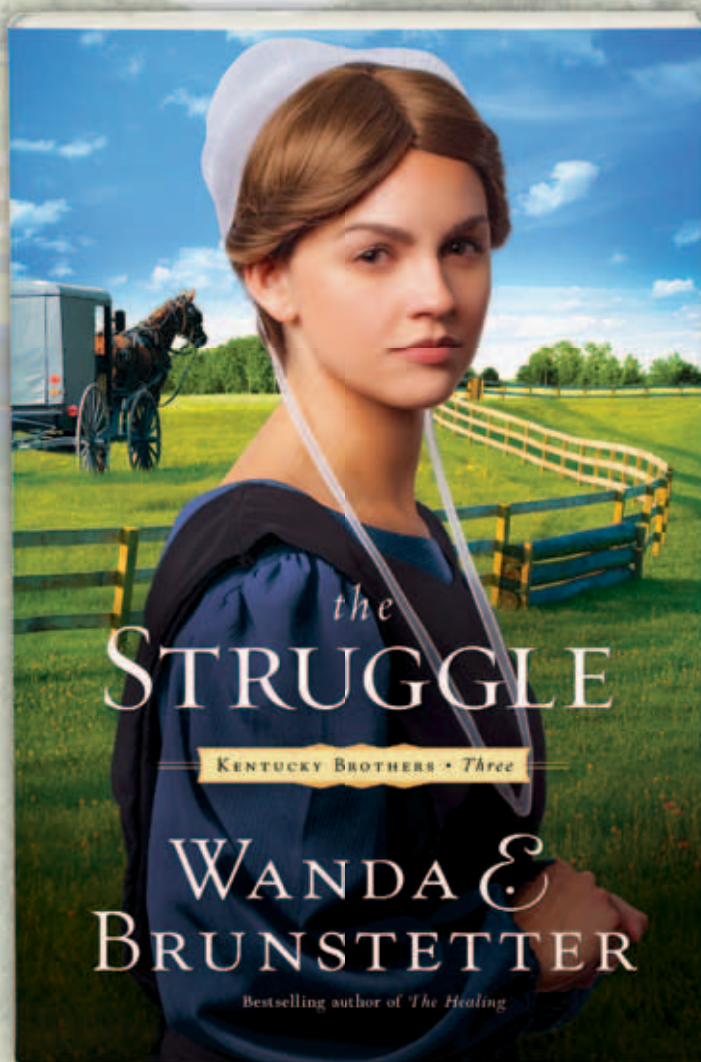
However, when we finished the family asked me if I was formerly Amish. Thoroughly relieved and feeling pretty good about myself, I had to laugh and say 'Nope, I'm from Pittsburgh!' I was told that my knowledge was incredible for someone not growing up in the culture. I credit the training, resources, and commitment to accuracy we have here at the Amish Experience, as well as the reading I do 'just for fun'. It was a delightful group and I am sure the kids loved JACOB'S CHOICE in the Theater too! I know because there was a lot of clapping and cheers when it ended."

Shannon is one of the many Amish Experience guides who love their work and share enthusiastically their respect and understanding of our Amish neighbors. The Amish Experience is located at Plain and Fancy Farm, RT 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. For theater and tour information, call 717.768.8400, ext. 210.



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Bank Account Quilting

by Andi Reynolds

Once upon a time, people who made quilts made them from start to finish. They chose the design and fabric, cut pieces, and sewed them into a top. Then they layered the top with batting and backing and quilted the three layers together. Finally, they encased the raw edges in a binding, or folded the top or backing over and sealed the quilt with stitches.

It wasn't unusual for a group of people to gather together for the quilting part of this process. In time, even the creation of the top became a shared activity as groups came together to make a quilt to give away or raffle.

These days, one of the hottest trends in quilting is to create a top and have another person quilt it. This quilting is usually done on a longarm quilting machine. The number of people who own these machines so they can quilt other people's quilts is skyrocketing.

While group quilting is strong and shows no sign of decline, creating a top solo and then quilting it solo is the growing "bank account" method of quilting. Two different people do the work—the top creator pays from her bank account to the longarm quilter, who makes a profit. Some have called this method "quilting by credit card."

What does this mean for you? Perhaps you're not a quilter at all but have found or inherited a quilt top.

The great benefit of hiring out the quilting for many people is the time-saving. If someone else is doing the quilting, you are free to keep making tops. Or garden. Or go to ball games. For those who love the quilting part of the process, bank account quilting is a way to take other people's tops and make money doing the part you love.

Given that this shared effort is a business transaction, the following are some considerations, presented from the top-maker's point of view. Someone thinking about a longarm business can flip the questions around.



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This isn't complicated: the longer it takes a professional quilter to complete your project, the more materials required, and the sooner you need your quilt, the more expensive it will be. However, having your project quilted by a pro can be surprisingly affordable.

First, work with someone you know. See samples of her work, either in person or online. Word-of-mouth referrals are also good.

Second, know how the finished quilt will be used. One that will be heavily used and washed will need sturdier work than a decorative wallhanging.

Next, think about the quilting design. Are you interested in an allover pattern (pantograph) or a custom design, where the patterns and fills change from space to space? If the latter, are you designing the quilting patterns, or are you asking the quilter to do the designing?

Now consider the condition of your top and be honest. Is it really squared up? Are the borders flat? Are there any open seams? Did you leave any pleats or full areas that you hope will "quilt out?" The more problems the quilter has to solve, the more she'll charge.

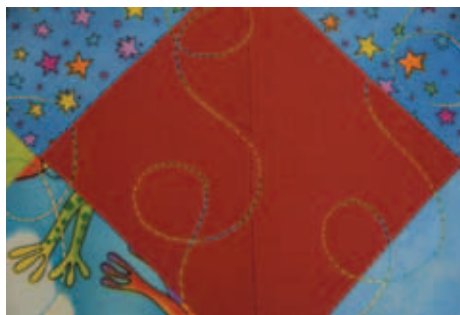
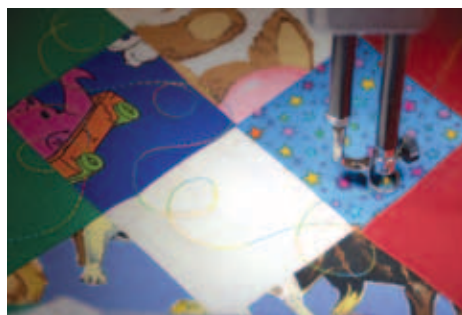
Many longarm quilters can provide batting, thread, and backing. Consider whether you want to pay for her to provide these items, or if you want to provide them. Ask about the thread charge, which will vary by type, amount used, and number of times the thread must be changed. Some quilters also offer binding services. And while longarm machines roll the three layers together without basting, if you want to quilt your project yourself but hate basting, some longarmers can do this for you.

Finally, if you present a messy top, be prepared to pay extra for clipping threads, straightening borders, and pressing.

Just about everyone in the quilt world is a friendly sort, and asking questions about the service you're trying to hire is A-OK. It's a new day in quilting. You can make tops prolifically or quilt tops prodigiously. Our quilting foremothers would love this turn of events.

Thanks to these professional longarm quilters for their assistance: Anita Shackelford, www.anitashackelford.com, and Jan Everett, jan_texas@yahoo.com. 

Andi Reynolds is the executive book editor for the American Quilter's Society, which among other things produces nationally acclaimed quilt shows, including the Lancaster PA show which will be held March 13-16, 2013. She has tried just about every quilt-related technique in her 20-plus years of quilting, which is a good thing in a quilt book editor. Her preference is for hand work and the study of quilt history. Her latest interest is publishing quilt-related fiction. If she had the time, she would make one quilt out of every book AQS publishes. Would-be authors may contact her at andi@aqsqilt.com. Andi lives with her husband and two large dogs in Paducah, Kentucky -- her garden needs attention.



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A New Tour is Born

Continued from Page 33

experience possible. Needless to say, I went home with cheese and I now enjoy dreams of sweet-smelling soap made from Amos's goat milk.

Originally, this was to be the "Amish Mystery Tour," but I wasn't sure people would buy tickets not knowing where they'd be going (my partners disagreed). In any event, the stops are just so unusual we finally agreed not to keep them a secret. Since it was something of an adventure putting it all together, we decided that we'd call it just that, the Amish Adventure Tour. It departs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 5:00pm, with each excursion beginning with a scoop of ice cream to remember and then on to one of our special Amish stops.

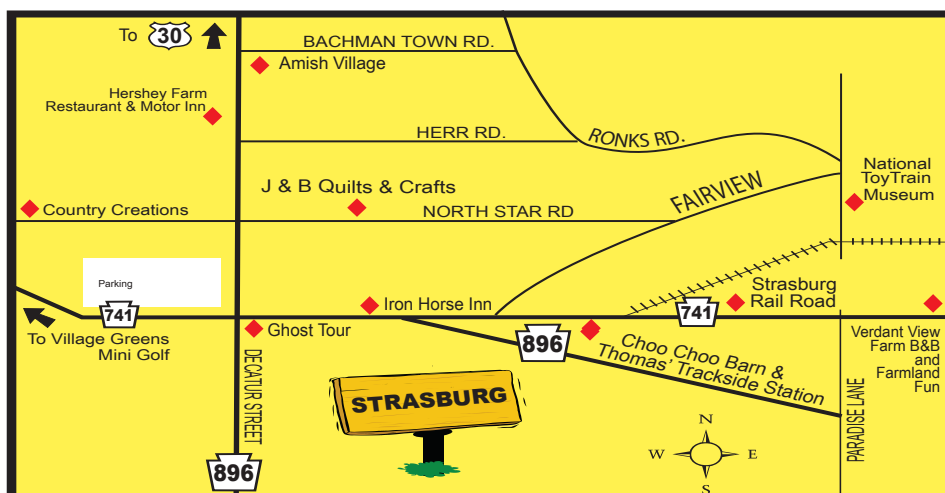
I guess it's no secret by now that I love these tours. They mean much to me personally and I'm gratified that I've been part of a team that has created true memory making opportunities for our guests. If you're intrigued, call us at 717.768.8400, ext. 210. Above all, enjoy your day with us in Amish Country, whatever your itinerary may be. 

Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage

All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Sight & Sound Theatres, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town."

Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillon, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.



Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation



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network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the

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end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town! 🚂

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Mystery & Intrigue In Amish Country

by Clinton Martin

Lancaster County is the “granddaddy” of all Amish settlements, but there are communities of Amish in other parts of the country. Author Amanda Flower staged her most recent novel, *A PLAIN DEATH*, in fictional

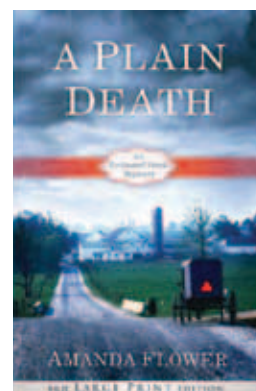
Appleseed Creek, in the heart of Ohio’s Amish Country. The reader quickly learns that life in this corner of the Amish world is not as serene as it seems.

As her Cleveland friends relocate to Southern California and Italy, 24-year-old computer whiz

Chloe Humphrey moves with some uncertainty to Appleseed Creek to direct technology services at a nearby college. Her first acquaintance is Becky, an ex-Amish teenager looking for a new home.

While driving Chloe’s car, Becky collides with a buggy, killing an Amish elder. But what looks like an accident is soon labeled

Continued on Page 46



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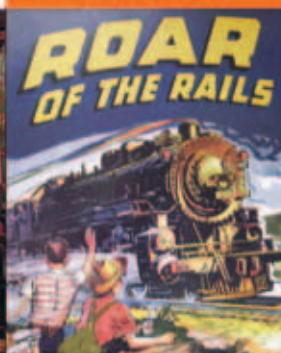
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A New Tour Is Born

by Brad Igou



In 1959, visitors were arriving in Amish Country asking, "Where can we see the Amish? Can we go to an Amish farm?" In those days, Moses Stoltzfus was making ice cream on his farm, and Jake Ebersol was making and painting his now famous chairs. As a little boy who lived here, I loved going for that farm fresh ice cream. And I still remember the chair shop near Intercourse, watching the machinery as chair parts were cut and then painted. Jake also made clocks, each hand numbered, and we still have one of his grandmother clocks in our house.

In college, I worked summers as a step-on guide on bus tours coming to Amish Country. In my wildest dreams I could never have imagined, that many years later, I'd be in charge of a tour company myself. I really am proud that Amish Country Tours is still running tours from Bird-in-Hand, from our offices now at the Amish Experience Theater at Plain & Fancy Farm on Route 340.

Most visitors are introduced to the Amish on one of our daily farmland tours that stops at shops or roadside stands and provides an excellent overview of Amish culture as we travel scenic backroads where Amish live, attend one room schools and work. I have great respect for the guides I work with for their depth of knowledge and extraordinary dedication. Most have Amish friends and some are even Amish "taxi drivers."

Over the years, I have often heard people ask about really meeting and talking to Amish people. For me that was fairly common, as I would visit one of my Amish friends every week. We'd sit and talk, or "visit" as the Amish like to say. I still never tire of watching cows being milked, and milking time was often my best chance of spending time with a farmer friend I hadn't seen for a while. And I never forgot those days visiting the chair shop, and always wanting to ask Jake what happened to those missing fingers!

How could I create a similar experience for our visitors? The answer --- the Amish Visit-in-

Continued on Page 33



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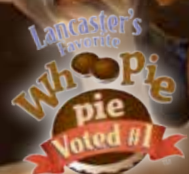
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Continued from Pg. 7

THE CONFESSION is a touching Amish love story and a keep-you-on-the-edge-of-your-seat mystery, all wrapped up in one," explains the musical's director Wally Nason. "Men and women alike are eager to find out what happens." As one 2011 theatergoer said, "It's the right touch of humor with a message." LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS agreed that its "ready-for-

prime-time voices...promises a happy ending and delivers."

With the laughter that ensues when a New York actress tries to play a "Plain" woman and the emotions experienced when lies are uncovered and truth revealed, THE CONFESSION takes its audiences on a roller coaster of highs and lows as the Plain, the not-so-plain and the outright extravagant all meet.



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Beverly Lewis' book was adapted for stage by veteran writer Martha Bolton, who is best known for her work as a speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan and with Bob Hope and Christian comedians Mark Lowry and Chonda Pierce. Nashville musician Wally Nason wrote the show's soaring melodies, inspiring lyrics and directs the performance. Nashville-based Dan Posthuma produced the show.

THE CONFESSION musical first opened at Blue Gate Theater in Shipshewana, Indiana. It premiered in June at a third venue at the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio.

Tickets to THE CONFESSION are \$32 weekdays and \$34 Friday and Saturday. Pre- and post-performance meal packages are \$44 to \$52. Tickets and meal packages may be purchased online at www.Bird-in-Hand.com or by phone at (800) 790-4069. Lodging packages are also available. For group reservations of 25 or more people, call 1-800-555-2303 ext. 221 or 218.

Amish in the Media

Continued from Pg. 9

With the growing popularity of Amish fiction novels, more and more stories were ripe for filming. Some of the more recent cable TV channel offerings include:

PLAIN TRUTH (2004), a Lifetime film inspired by Jodi Picoult's novel, starred Mariska Hargitay as a big city criminal lawyer who must defend an Amish teenager accused of killing her baby. The case is difficult because the Amish girl maintains she was never pregnant. "When a murder shatters a quiet community, can an outsider uncover what really happened?" Of course, outsiders will always discover the truth.

In 2007, a Beverly Lewis novel directed by Michael Landon, Jr. reached TV screens. In SAVING SARAH CAIN, Lisa Pepper's character is "sweet, successful, slightly self-absorbed and a city girl through and through. But when the untimely death of her sister draws her to Amish Country for the funeral, she makes a discovery that will change her life. She is now the legal guardian to five Amish nieces and nephews!"

After the tragic Nickel Mines School shooting, still fresh in all our minds, it was only a matter of time before a movie came along. That would be AMISH GRACE (2010). While it may have been better to never have made a movie about this horror, at least those involved made a sincere effort to handle the incident sensitively, ultimately trying to communicate the power of forgiveness that so caught the attention of the world.

Get "Real"

I need to make a short mention here of "reality TV shows." The idea of taking Amish teenagers and thrusting them into big city life has certainly had its appeal. I actually got a call from a British TV producer wanting me to find several Amish teens to fly over to London. They would then "sensitively" film their reactions to life in the city.

The London connection was surely inspired by the AMISH IN THE CITY series of several years ago, and the current National Geographic Channel's AMISH: OUT OF ORDER, which proclaims "You can take the man out of the Amish community, but you can't take the Amish out

of him." (Recently one of the cast members died in a tragic accident which became part of the broadcast.)

Soon to come is the TLC series BREAKING AMISH, which will follow these young people "as they decide whether to embrace their lifestyle or follow their dreams outside their communities. Each of these men and women face rejection and criticism from their families as they make the most important decision of their lives."

Of course, finding Amish youth who agree to appear on such shows means they have already decided to leave. As for what this show holds in store, I can only judge from some of the other announced TLC series --- PREACHER LADIES, BRIDES OF NEW JERSEY, and OBESE AND EXPECTING. Now if only they can find an obese, pregnant, New Jersey Amish girl they'll have their hit!

Based on a True Story

I'd like to end with a few words about my favorite Amish-themed film, which sadly has never been commercially released. In 1988, on the heels of WITNESS, NBC presented the two hour made-for-TV movie, A STONING IN FULHAM COUNTY, and, in my book, redeemed themselves for the awful AARON'S WAY. STONING is based on the true story of the death of an Amish baby in Indiana in 1979, retold in a compelling article in Rolling Stone Magazine (February 19, 1981).

The movie opens with rowdy non-Amish boys from town who, for fun, drive around throwing stones at Amish buggies at night. The activity is called "clape-ing," coming from a derogatory local term for the Amish --- "clape" for clay ape, a term that probably relates to the Amish being farmers. On this particular night, one of the boys accidentally hits and kills an Amish baby.

Boys are rounded up that night, but the Amish father, Jacob Shuler (Ron Perlman), chooses not to cooperate with the police. To complicate matters, the only person who actually saw the boys is his other young daughter, and Jacob doesn't want her questioned by the police, much less put on the witness stand.

The county prosecutor, Jim Sandler (Ken Olin), is a big city lawyer who has moved to the rural Iowa town with his wife (Jill Eikenberry), hoping to start up a new law practice there. He decides to charge the boys with reckless



The excellent 1988 NBC movie A STONING IN FULHAM COUNTY, sadly not available on DVD, is based on a true incident reported in ROLLING STONE magazine.

homicide, reflecting their "lack of concern or caring about the tolerance of people who are different. Those who are not tolerated have shown the most tolerance of all."

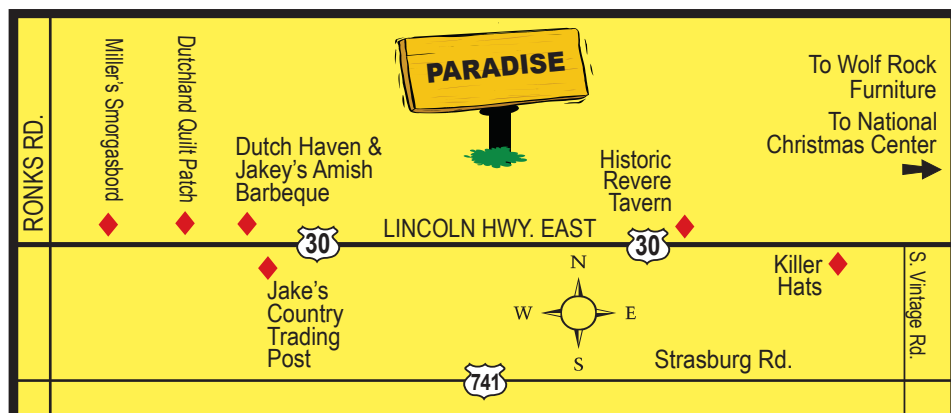
Finally, it is the anguish of his little girl that leads Jacob to go to court. But, with reporters and TV cameras everywhere, the boys' lawyer changes the plea to guilty, knowing the girl can identify his clients, and thus her need to testify is eliminated.

In an epilogue, the narrator notes that the boys were fined from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for their crime, and received sentences of 3-5 years, all of which were suspended. Despite some minor flaws in the depiction of the Amish, this is a compelling and thought-provoking story, made all the more powerful by the fact that it actually happened.

As is true with most criminal acts against religious or ethnic minorities, they are often the result of misunderstanding and dehumanizing of others simply because they are different. Over the years the media have highlighted or exaggerated these conflicts in the interest of storytelling, but movies and television have also opened our eyes to the consequences of intolerance in a dramatic way that can be very real to most of us.

My "Amish in the Media" series will continue with a further look at Amish in the Movies. Help me keep it going. E-mail Editor@AmishNews.com with fodder for future explorations.

Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise, just one of our many intriguing town names. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that the Pike was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike").

The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The turnpike opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna."

Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope you can see that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm! 

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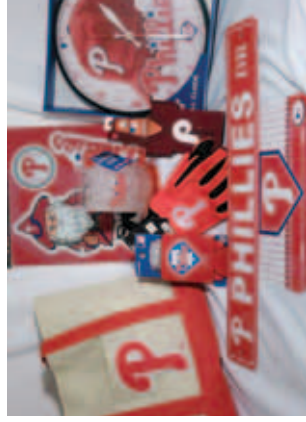
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The Struggle



by Terri Mastrobuono, guide for the Amish Experience, Drama Teacher and noted Actor in Lancaster County

Wanda Brunstetter is a well-known author of books peopled by the Amish and their English friends. It may seem strange at first glance to have one of these novels about the Amish titled *THE STRUGGLE*. Often the Amish are perceived as having idyllic, bucolic lives free of strife and worry. But as Ms. Brunstetter so skillfully shows in this easy to read new book, the Amish share the same kinds of ups and downs, joys and sorrows as our English population. In the dedication page of the book, a phrase from Matthew 6:14 appears: *If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

The situations depicted in the book revolve around the struggle to find such forgiveness.

THE STRUGGLE centers around Hannah Fisher and her husband, Timothy. Timothy has decided to move the family, which includes their only child, Mindy, from Paradise, PA to Pembroke, Ky. His brother, Titus, and half-brother, Samuel, live there. Timothy hopes he can make a good life for himself and afford a

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place of his own there. He also hopes that the move away from Hannah's mother will improve their marriage. Hannah is very close to her mother, it seems. So close, that Timothy feels their own closeness suffers as a result. Hannah is terribly unhappy about the move. So unhappy that she closes herself off from all of the new people she meets in Pembroke, and withdraws even further from her husband.

Hannah finds fault with everything in Pembroke, constantly comparing it to the Lancaster County she loves and sorely misses. She dislikes living with Timothy's half-brother, Samuel, and his four children.

Samuel is a widower and is courting Esther, who cares for his children while he works for an English building company. Hannah takes

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issue with the way Esther is raising the children. She is as over-protective of her only daughter, Mindy, as her own mother was with her and feels that Esther is so permissive with Samuel's children that their "wildness" may cause harm to Mindy. So she also keeps her daughter apart from her cousins.

Added in the mix are some English friends. Bonnie owns a B & B where Esther lives and helps out. She and a man named Allen have romantic designs on each other. But Bonnie has a secret in her past that she is ashamed of. This causes her to delay answering Allen's marriage proposal, which then causes a terrible misunderstanding between her and Allen.

Then there is Trisha, a widow on a cross-country trip who ends up having to make an

unplanned extended stay at Bonnie's B & B. Seems Bonnie's dad and Trisha have a bit of ancient history in need of resolution with some forgiveness, as well. Dad is not too happy to find Trisha present in his daughter's home.

All of these stories of love, difficulty, pain, and resolution, are deftly woven together, along with some plot twists, in a way that underscores everyone's common humanity. Ms. Brunstetter also has a way of making the reader feel that he or she is part and parcel of Amish life, incorporating customs, the "Dutch" language, and every day activities into the story. Because of the way she criss-crosses the Amish and English stories, we also see how the Amish and English interact, and that both cultures equally experience struggle and the need to forgive. 



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Designed to Inspire...The Flower & Craft Warehouse

by Clinton Martin

OK, why shop for home décor while on vacation? After all, isn't this something you might do anywhere, anytime, and with anyone. Talking with experienced shoppers, I'm discovering that it's all about clearing through the clutter and finding the shopping experience that truly inspires you. Reader, you are in very good luck, for here in Amish Country we have the inspiration you'll be grateful to have discovered and it's known as the Flower & Craft Warehouse. It's been a destination for thousands of visitors every week and when you step inside, you'll quickly learn why.

The Flower & Craft Warehouse started modestly, opening over 20 years ago as a silk flower and floral supply store in a 2,000 square foot building. Today the business has grown to a whopping 100,000 square feet of retail space with eight amazingly stocked seasonal departments that's worth the trip from wherever you might be reading this.

Imagine aisle after aisle of baskets, berries, candles & potpourri, canvas prints, decorating and gift supplies, fabric & textiles, floral arrangements, seasonal items, jewelry, lighting, outdoor living, wrought iron, a warm and fuzzy Seasonal Christmas Shop and loads more.

The Flower & Craft Warehouse even offers a bath and body boutique, stocking Bare Escentuals, Crabtree and Evelyn, Camille Beckman, Derma E and others. You can set your shopping basket down for a few minutes to enjoy a "make-under" by the store's staff, specially trained in the Bare Escentuals product line.

Wedding plans in the air for someone close to you? There's bridal assistance for preparing for that special day with favor accessories, table décor, bouquet supplies, guest books, wedding candles, bridal accessories and more that soon-to-be brides are looking for.

If the magnitude of this encompassing shopping adventure appears a little daunting, worry not. In-house design consultants help guide you to inspirations, both known to you and those waiting to be discovered.

Ladies bring your men. Men, put up a little fuss and then agree knowing that this place is so cool, you'll have fun, even though you'll never



acknowledge it. Besides, the smorgasbord at Shady Maple is just minutes away!

The Flower & Craft Warehouse is in Blue Ball, near the intersection of Routes 322 and 23. If you are using a GPS, enter 196 Center Street, East Earl PA, 17519. If you'd rather drive "unplugged", simply head east on Route 322 and take the first right onto Broad Street after passing through the Route 322 & Route 23 intersection. At the end of Broad Street turn left and their parking lot is on both sides of the street. No excuses for missing this one-of-a-kind shopping opportunity, Monday – Saturday, 9:00am – 8:00pm, and Sundays Noon – 5:00pm. Call 717-355-9975 for additional information. 

Make Tracks to Strasburg Rail Road

Special to Amish Country News



Playing with trains takes on new meaning at the Strasburg Rail Road. From the sight of the 100-ton authentic steam locomotive, to the sound of the whistle, and the hiss of the engine - this stop along the tracks is unlike any other place you'll visit while spending time in Amish Country. In fact, as you travel through the backyards and rolling hills of the working Amish, it's tough to imagine there could be a better place.

A real working railroad, the trains that run these tracks date back more than one hundred years, though you wouldn't know as you stand aside the massive, well-maintained "iron horse," watching as she connects to her passenger cars, ready for her next trip. Running on an average of 7,500 gallons of water and a half-ton of coal per trip, the Strasburg Rail Road train moves effortlessly through 1,000 acres of farmland to Paradise, PA and back.

Your 45-minute journey begins on the platform of the East Strasburg Station, circa 1915. With ticket in hand, you take your seat. How you ride is up to you. Choose Coach, First-Class, or live it up in luxury aboard the President's Car. You can even enjoy a meal aboard the Dining Car, the only wooden dining car still in operation today. Stay on board for the entire trip, or take a break mid-way to picnic along the tracks at Groff's Grove. Ride "open-air" and soak in all the wonders waiting just outside your window - animals, cornfields, wheat, barley, pumpkins and more.

At the station, pint-sized passengers have a ball with the Cranky Cars. Six hand-propelled cars allow little ones to take control as they crank their way around a track. The authentic Pump Car lets you test your own power as you move up and down the track. And, the Strasburg Rail Road is one of just a few places where passengers can ride behind a Cagney locomotive. This miniature steam engine is just a fraction of the size of a traditional locomotive, but musters up plenty of might as it pulls its load around the property.

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For more information on the Strasburg Rail Road train times or to purchase tickets, please visit StrasburgRailRoad.com, or call 717.687.7522. 

Strasburg Rail Road Special Events

- **Great Train Robbery**
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- **Wine & Cheese Trains**
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- **Specialty Dining Trains - Murder Mystery, Dine with the Amish, Chocolate Express and More!**
(Select dates now through December)
- **Day Out With Thomas** (Sept. 15 - 23)
- **Santa's Paradise Express**
(Nov. 23 - 25, weekends in Dec.)

Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball

The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania — 60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than \$.04 an acre). By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area today called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timbers of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland.

These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.





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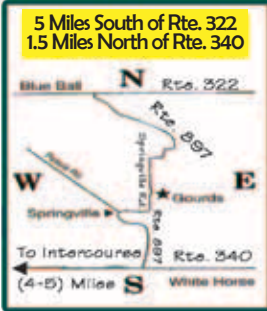


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A New Line at Wolf Rock Furniture... The Royal American Ensemble

by Clinton Martin

Construction workers wear steel-toe boots and hard-hats. Furniture makers in Lancaster County? A broad-brimmed straw hat and a flowing beard. Of course, just because someone carries a hard-hat doesn't mean they are an accomplished contractor, and neither does being Amish mean having deftly honed wood-working skills. However, there are many Amish craftsmen in Lancaster County that have concentrated on woodworking for their vocation. Some of the most experienced of these ply the trade at Wolf Rock Furniture.

To celebrate this tradition of high-quality work, Wolf Rock Furniture recently announced their newest line of Shaker, Mission, and Country style furniture, the Royal American Ensemble. Like most of the pieces you see at Wolf Rock's showroom, the Royal American Ensemble is hand-made, each piece individu-

ally designed and crafted to meet the highest standards of workmanship.

While it is true that words like "Royal" and "American" don't normally come paired, the moniker only seemed appropriate for this new line of bedroom and living room furniture, as American as apple pie, yet showing distinct elegance. If a man's home is his castle, then Wolf Rock Furniture must be the official woodworker to the "crown." There are plenty of floor models available to see at Wolf Rock's showroom, but customized special-orders are welcome too.

Visit Wolf Rock Furniture Monday through Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, Saturdays 9:30am to

4:00pm (they are closed Sundays and religious holidays.) They are located on Route 30 in Kinzers, at 3533 Lincoln Highway East. Call 717-442-8990 for more information. 



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Shady Maple Complex Shines Ever-Bright!

by Clinton Martin

There's always been something special about Shady Maple. Although it's big to be sure, there's nothing "complex" about this Complex. I wanted to highlight a couple of my favorite Shady Maple haunts. It wasn't easy choosing just three, but here goes...

Good's Store

While this store may define dictionary definitions for the word "good," such as bountiful, agreeable, attractive and considerable, it's called "Good's" simply because that's the founder's last name. And after 50 years, locals and visitors alike know the name does indeed describe the shopping experience.

The family has even grown the business to include three other locations in Quarryville, Schaefferstown, and Ephrata, in addition to the flagship Shady Maple store.

Good's Store carries a full line of merchandise including clothing, shoes, fabrics, stationery, domestics, housewares, giftware, hardware, toys, and sporting goods. Not surprisingly, it's been frequented by many Amish, Mennonite, and other Plain folks for generations for its friendly service, vast selection and competitive prices.

Along with the regular name brands are old-fashioned items, like toys that don't take batteries, clothing that you can work hard in, and hard-to-find household items you thought weren't available anymore. One might say that this store really has "the goods."

Martin's Trailside Express

While Martin's Trailside Express has been open to the public since 1998, the story of this convenient quick stop for food, fuel, and a shine goes back a number of years. The company's patriarch, Earl Martin, had originally allowed a few close neighbors to come and purchase gasoline from his trucking company at a lower bulk rate. New regulations for underground tanks gave him the

incentive to expand his location and open a retail gas station type facility.

Today, it's much more than just a place to top off the tank. Martin's has all the necessary accouterments to refresh your automobile, from a wash to those little niggling "wish-I-hads" like oil, blinker bulbs, or windshield washer fluid.

And if you need a personal fuel up, Martin's stocks a coffee island of Baronet brand coffees, plus sweet sides like coffee cakes and the locally beloved TastyKake brand. Better still, when the friendly staff at Martin's tie on an apron and fire up the grill to make you a to-order delicious burger, fry up some kickin' chicken, or flip a couple of flapjacks, you know you'll soon be primed to hit the road again in style.

Yes, Martin's Trailside Express is a gas station, but trust me, you'll find the experience goes far beyond simply moving the needle from E to F!

Shady Maple Smorgasbord

Shady Maple Smorgasbord is arguably the most famous of the all-you-care-to-eat restaurants in Amish Country. Interestingly enough however, the namesake of the property near Blue Ball was not the seed that grew to be the mighty complex it is today.

That honor belongs to the Shady Maple Farm Market, a simple roadside stand at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Z. Martin, parents of current owners, Miriam and Marvin Weaver. The Martin's called their produce stand "Shady Maple," as it was situated directly underneath the towering tree of the same name.

But they soon outgrew their roadside surroundings. With every addition to the market, more locals and visitors were finding their way and filling their baskets. Today it's the largest grocery market in Lancaster County, in both size and selection. You probably don't often visit grocery outlets when on vacation, but you owe it to yourself to set foot in Shady Maple's foyer and have your idea of the super market become forever altered.

Of course, the restaurant was a natural evolution of operating a market that specialized in fresh country meats, just-off-the-boat seafood selections, and a produce department seemingly as big as the farms supplying it. And, Amish Country's must-try gastronomic "event" is today the Shady Maple Smorgasbord where unending delicious selections are displayed in steaming trays arrayed along "bars" for you to peruse at your leisure.

The sense of being in Amish Country is very real, as the food options reflect the surrounding countryside, from a dozen ways to prepare corn to a hot batch of chipped beef gravy to pour over oven-fresh buttermilk biscuits. Suffice it to say there is an amazing variety along the 200-plus feet of buffets. And each night at the Smorgasbord sports an additional theme with the chefs' take on seafood, steaks, chops, and ribs. Hungry yet?

Believe me, whether Amish Country is your destination, or you're just passing through, Shady Maple is a great way to spend a few hours, whatever the season, whatever the reason! 🚗





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12 Years Strong!

Visitors to Lancaster County love to experience the serenity of days gone by.

Part of this experience includes the delicious foods of the area and the handcrafted products of furniture artisans, including the still very much in demand Amish furniture.

One place that offers both is the world famous Shady Maple complex.

When Shady Maple Smorgasbord moved into a larger building across the parking lot a few years ago, the former restaurant building became home to one of the largest and best furniture stores in the area, Country Home Furniture.

The store is now celebrating its 12th anniversary in business.

According to management, "We like to think we're helping to preserve a little piece of America's furniture making history. Our craftsmen are steeped in tradition. They deeply care about their work. That's what Lancaster County is about – history, pride and dignity."

On two floors and 30,000 square feet of selling space in their retail store, you will find eight manufacturers of American-made sofas and recliners, made in North Carolina, Ohio and Mississippi, in addition to over 30 manufacturers of solid wood dining, bedroom, office, occasional and entertainment... and the area's largest selection of Amish furniture.

The hardwood pieces come from American hand-crafters and Amish builders in Ohio, Indiana and right here in Lancaster County.

With hundreds of stylish products in traditional, transitional, modern and country looks on the floor, there is something for everyone.

Unlike other stores where your only choices are what you see, at Country Home Furniture, you can have a hand in every facet of your design. That's the beauty of shopping there.

Customers love the flexibility to have a piece made for them by selecting the wood, stain, hardware and fabric.

"We sincerely encourage you to experience this for yourself. You can certainly buy off the floor or have something made new for you, as you see it. 50% of our customers do that. The other 50% let their imagination run wild. We have stain block boards and fabric handles available throughout the store to give our customers the opportunity to engage in the fascinating process of getting exactly what you want in the style, shape, size and color desired. It's distinctive furniture, made for you, your way. It's fun, and it's easy."

Why shop now? "We have all kinds of special pricing deals and delivery specials going on right now, and we are looking forward to finishing out 2012 in a great way."

If beautiful, quality, brand new, solid wood, American handcrafted furniture are important to you, then you owe it to yourself to explore Country Home Furniture. As they like to say, it's "worth the drive to the countryside" to come see the craftsmanship first hand, then enjoy your meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord - two great things that make Lancaster County famous.

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A New Tour is Born

Continued from Page 17



Lettuce grows "in the air" in this futuristic Amish greenhouse.

Person Tour. Most everyone I talked with felt it impossible, but it got done! Guides went out into the farmlands talking to Amish friends and I followed up to be sure the Amish volunteers would be comfortable answering sometimes prying questions.

The first stop, of course, had to be a farm at milking time. By leaving at 5:00pm, we could manage to arrive while milking is actually going on for visitors to see this amazing process, still done without electricity, but certainly no longer by hand.

Next, I wanted a craft stop, but not a quilt or furniture store people readily can visit on their own. And this wasn't to be a shopping tour. The mission --- Amish eager to talk about and demonstrate their craft. This year we have an Amishman who grows and decoratively paints all sizes and shapes of gourds, a lady who makes wonderful soaps in her home, and a man who weaves one-of-a-kind carpets on a loom he made with his father.

My idea for the third stop was the simplest, yet the most difficult to arrange, and even I wasn't sure it would work. I wanted people to just sit and talk with an Amish family, as I so often do. Luckily, some Amish are as curious about us as we are about them, and this stop has proved to be the highlight of the tour for most people. It isn't always easy for strangers to start talking, especially when they come from such different ways of life, but it inevitably works. Guides tell me they usually have to pull people away!

The comment we hear most often after the tour is "They're just people." My Amish friend always told me he hoped that was the message we conveyed. I think he would be pleased, as I am humbled

that our Visit-in-Person tour is the only regularly scheduled Dutch Country tour to be designated an official Heritage Tour by the Lancaster County Planning Commission.

In 2012 we decided to offer a "mini" version of our Visit-in-Person Tour with one unique visit along with a tasty treat at one of my favorite places now that Moses Stoltzfus' ice cream is long gone. Getting to this farm-made ice cream stop is an adventure unto

itself! These Jersey cows produce a milk so rich that the ice cream is indescribably good. And, you just might get to see the "tail end" of the milking process (pun intended).

So now we had the tasty piece of our "adventure." What next? Let's find Amish that are doing something different, really different. Out went our guides again. What we discovered surprised even us.

Sam has built the greenhouse of the future, virtually unseen outside of Florida and Disney World. With over 2,000 heads of Boston bib lettuce sent to markets each week, tall revolving towers are watered with nutrients every 20 minutes and absolutely no soil is used in the growing process. With no insecticides or herbicides, truly this is farming of the future, right here in Amish Country. When I first saw it all, I couldn't believe it was happening here, let alone by an Amish man!

John was a VIP tour stop before he and his family moved. We always admired his passion for weaving baskets, and he loved to talk to people. While his old farm location didn't work, we now are able to include him in this new tour. He explains the process from timber to reed to dyeing to the actual weaving of baskets in all shapes and sizes. His children are very much involved, with the name and age of the family member who makes each basket inscribed on the bottom.

I've always loved goats, so when we heard that Amos might be willing to host small groups of visitors on his goat farm, I couldn't wait to talk to him. The goats sure are cute, but seeing how they are milked and the cheese that is made is awesome! Imagine, even soap from the goat milk. Amos and his son really enjoy guests, and that we can come after hours makes this special

Continued on Page 13

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Amish Country News July Events



We say our always best-in-class corn should be "Knee-High By the Fourth of July." We even celebrate a banquet in the cornfield at the Smucker Farm.

July 6, 2012

Glo Golf Patriotic Night at Village Greens Mini Golf

July 7, 2012

Intercourse Fire Company Pig Roast Dinner

July 8, 2012

Great Train Robbery at the Strasburg Railroad

July 12, 2012

Amazing Appetizers Class at the Good Cooking Store

July 14, 2012

Hot Dog Bash at the Intercourse Canning Company

July 21, 2012

Blues & Brews at Mount Hope Estate & Winery

July 21 & 22, 2012

Bottle Fest at Shupp's Grove Antique Market

July 26 & 30, 2012

Banquet in a Cornfield at Bird-in-Hand's Smucker Farm

Historic Lititz • A Hometown Treasure



There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse

erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz --- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery

in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

The more you explore Lititz, the more you'll agree it is one of Amish Country's best kept secrets!

Tour America's First Pretzel Bakery

Open Monday-Saturday, Closed Sundays • Bakery Tours: 9:30am-4:30pm • Bakery Store 9:00am-5:00pm
219 E. Main Street • Lititz • PA • 717-626-4354 • www.juliussturgis.com

First-Run and First-Rate in Amish Country... Penn Cinema IMAX

by Clinton Martin



Glasses or no glasses, popcorn or no popcorn...we all have our favorite way to enjoy the movies. Far more than just a pastoral paradise, we in Amish Country can boast as fine a venue for all your big screen entertainment as you'll find anywhere. Penn Cinema, an

independent theater, offers not only Amish Country's only IMAX screenings, but also shows 2D and 3D movies on traditional size movie screens. For me, the biggest blockbusters are best seen in IMAX 3D.

Savvy visitors know when to use Penn Cinema in their itinerary. Consider flick planning for your Sunday, or maybe as an after-dinner evening

activity when much of traditional Amish Country closes up shop.

Call 717-626-7720 or visit www.penncinema.com for current schedule. Penn Cinema is easy to find. Head east on Airport Road off Route 501 just south of Lititz. The Lancaster Airport will be to your left. Continue a short distance past the airport, and Penn Cinema stands tall on your right. 



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— Lancaster Newspapers 2004-2011



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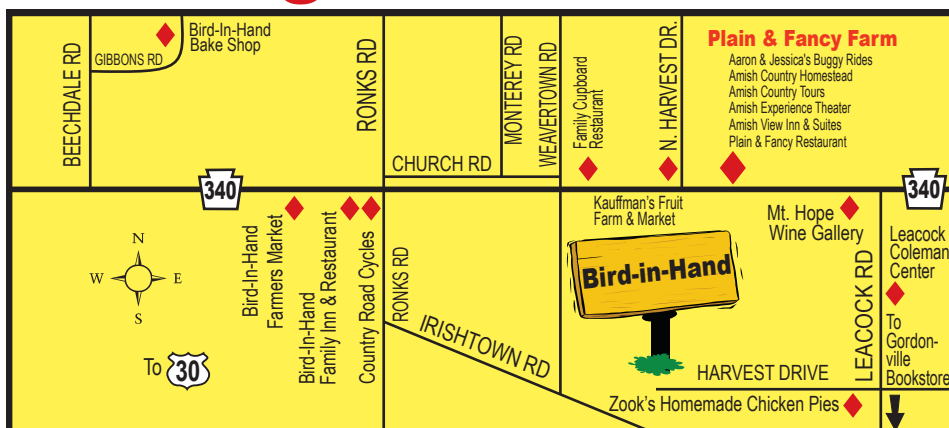


Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand

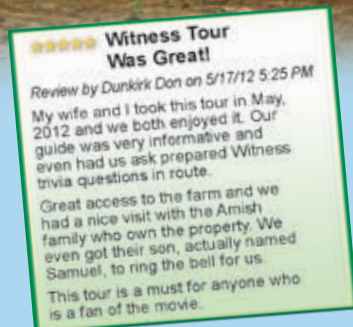
Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoners were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night, one of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched.

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries. 🐔



Since 1959, Lancaster's First and Foremost Amish Farmland Tours



Real Reviews from Real Visitors

Amish Country Tour Times:
Mon.-Sat. 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm
Sun. 10am, 12pm, 2pm

Tours Depart from Amish Experience Theater at Plain & Fancy Farm
3121 Old Philadelphia Pike • Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505 • Route 340 • 717-768-8400, Ext. 210
www.AmishExperience.com

1600

Triangular pieces of fabric used in the "Pickle Dish" quilt design at Witmer's Quilt Shop.

Hit the Brakes! Jakey's Amish Barbeque Now On Wheels!

by Clinton Martin

Fans of gourmet food trucks unite, and tie on a bib while you're at it! Jakey's Amish BBQ is the latest wheeled cooker-conveyance to grace the Amish Countryside. The delicious smells of "low and slow" smoked meats

beckon even before you see the tasty wagon. The Holy Grail awaits behind the Dutch Haven Windmill on RT 30, less than five miles east of the RT 896 outlets. Leave a little extra time to explore Dutch Haven, home of the shoofly pie and a great place to shop. 



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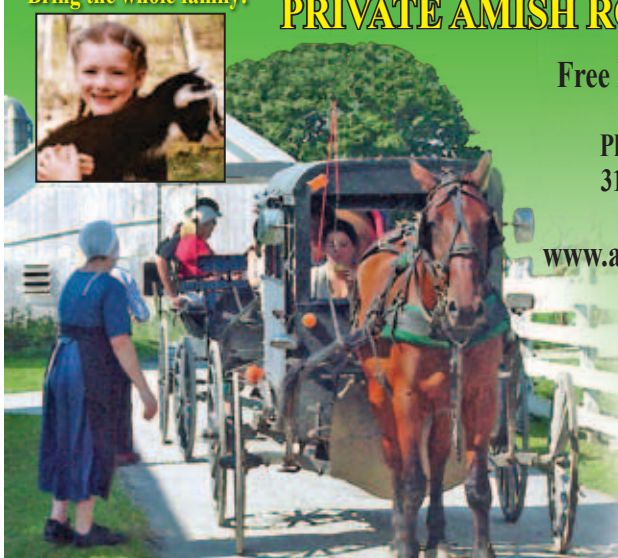
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Rt. 340
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Rt. 741
Plain & Fancy Farm
Aaron & Jessica's
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Visit a real Amish farm. Get off and see the cows and Clydesdale work horses.



The Amish

Experience



Last year marked the 52nd anniversary of three of Lancaster's premiere attractions, all at one location on the AAA designated Scenic Cultural Byway, Route 340, mid-way between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse.

at Plain & Fancy Farm

This year marked the 53rd anniversary of Plain & Fancy Farm as the very first family-style restaurant. It remains a legendary dining experience. At the same time, Amish Country Tours (Dutchland Tours) began the first regularly scheduled tours for visitors through the scenic Amish farmlands. And 1959 also marked the opening of the Amish Country Homestead, the only Amish house tour designated a Heritage Site by Lancaster County.

room. An Amish schoolteacher helped decorate the room to give it the feel of a real school. It's all included in the house tour.



Interpreting the ever-changing Amish culture respectfully and accurately is no easy task. The authenticity of the Amish Country Homestead resulted in its designation as the only Heritage Site Amish house tour in Lancaster County.



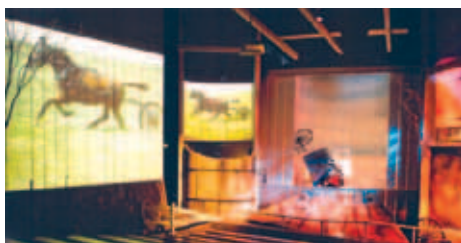
Amish House Tour Unravels Riddles

Amish people wouldn't appreciate visitors walking through their homes all day...nor would you! So the best way to see the inside of a house is on a tour. At the Amish Country Homestead, the staff is committed to interpreting the changing Amish lifestyle. Rather than a museum, it has the feel of a real, "lived in" home. Guides take visitors on a fascinating 45-minute tour through the nine rooms. Discover how church is held in the home and hear the singing. See how Mom does her laundry---with a gasoline engine! Upstairs learn about Plain dress, while the kids enjoy the marble rollers.

The Fisher Amish Schoolroom is where you (or the kids) can sit at actual Amish school desks and learn how all eight grades are taught in one

Amish Hi-Tech

In 1995, a new concept in interpreting Amish life debuted when the Amish Experience F/X Theater became only the third "experiential" theater in North America. The goal of this one-of-a-kind project was to give a more personal, intimate view of the Amish, connecting past to present. Rather than a somber documentary, the story goes inside an Amish family as their son



Jacob struggles to decide whether to remain in the Amish faith.

An important missing link in most tellings of the Amish story is the persecution of the Anabaptists in Europe and the perilous journey to America. Rather than observe, visitors will now feel a part of history as special effects, including an amazing technology called "Pepper's Ghost," combine with smoke, wind, rain, and fire effects in a wrap-around barnyard setting.

A superb blending of entertainment and education, this touching and exciting production has moved some people to tears and children to exclaim "Wow!" This show, which has been called "400 years of history in 40 minutes of magic," can only be seen here in Lancaster, so be sure to make it a part of your visit. (Shows on the hour.)

Where the Amish Live & Work

Visitors who simply drive around looking at Amish farms rarely come away with much insight into the unique culture that attracts people from around the world. Amish Country Tours provide certified guides to take visitors down the backroads, deep into the farmlands and scenery that is as beautiful now as it was 50 years ago. Guides offer fascinating information on one-room schools, farming practices, "cottage

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Plain & Fancy — Farm to Table Since 1959

industries,” wedding customs, and more. Did you know there are Amish millionaires?

Amish Farmland Tours	
Monday-Saturday 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm	Sunday 10:00am, 12:00pm 2:00pm

But you are not just sitting on the 14-passenger shuttle the whole time. Whenever possible, a stop is made at an actual Amish farm. Other stops may include a local bakeshop, roadside stand, or craft shop. Having a guide is recommended over tape tours, which are often outdated and can never answer questions about special activities you may see that day. Purchase tickets for this 90-minute tour online at AmishExperience.com. Click on "Tickets" in the upper right hand corner of the page.

A Lancaster Original

Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are the Amish farmers who supply the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant with sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant go “from farm to table” for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today’s Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast

Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known for being Lancaster County’s original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, dried sweet corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. A \$3 off coupon valid for each adult in the party can be found adjacent to this article.

The New “ala carte” Menu

The restaurant also offers a new ala carte menu featuring mouth watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from-scratch entrees and platters. The ala carte menu is also a great value with Lunch Specials from \$7.95 and Dinner Specials from \$10.95.

The Country Store

Find books, videotapes, candles, souvenirs and local handcrafts, and more. Explore The Country Store’s collection of traditional Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, toys and dolls,



plain & fancy

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The Original Amish Farm Feast as featured on
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if problem with Bird-in-Hand, try Ronks PA
* With this ad. Hours/menus/prices may vary.



\$3 off

Lancaster's Original
Amish Farm Feast

Feast includes entrees, sides, starters, beverages and desserts and is valid for up to 6 adults. Not valid Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving or w/ any other offer, special, group rate. Not valid on ala carte menu. Expires 12/31/12 PLU 505

and discover new treasures to adorn your kitchen and home. You'll find seasonal items as well as Christmas decorations, available year-round. The store also features Kauffman's Fruit Farm jams and jellies, bakery fresh items from Miller's Bakery, and Plain & Fancy chow chow and apple butter.

AmishView Inn & Suites

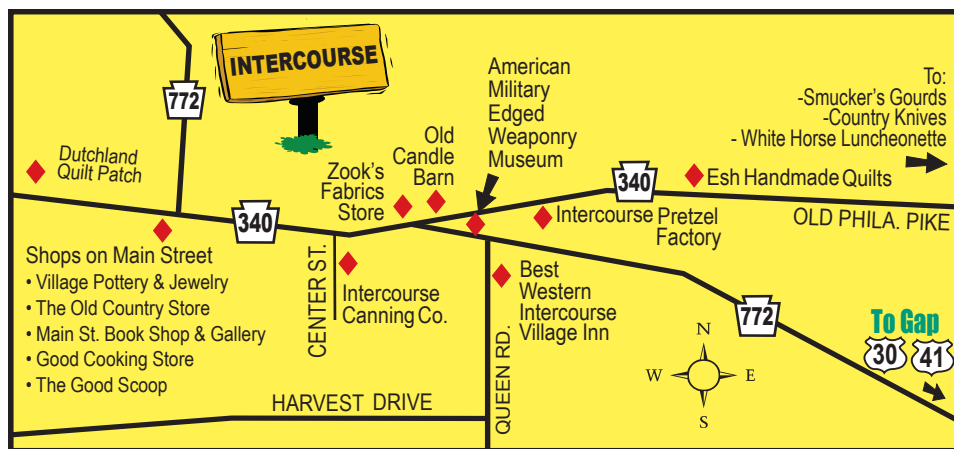
While you're at Plain & Fancy Farm, you're invited to stroll up and visit AmishView Inn & Suites, a classically beautiful hotel that features elegant accommodations and incredible views. If time permits, a front desk representative can provide you with a quick tour of the hotel. The

indoor pool, fitness center, arcade, whirlpools and fireplaces make AmishView perfect for an intimate getaway, family vacation, or corporate retreat. Complimentary hot country breakfast, wire-less internet, HBO, DVD players, special amenities and kitchenettes come with every room.

Where It All Began

With all of these amenities and attractions in one beautiful location surrounded by Amish farmland, the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy is the ideal starting point to enjoy all that the area has to offer as you create your own special Lancaster County experience! 

Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

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www.AmishCountryInns.com

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

Continued on Page 42

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6, 8, and 9 Inch Homemade
Chicken or Beef Pies Available
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Mount Hope Wine Gallery

Intercourse, PA

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Present this ad when you sample at our tasting counter and you can take home a memento of your visit: our exclusive limited edition "Lover's Paradise" wine tasting glass for only \$2.00 (a \$3.95 retail value). One glass per customer. Offer valid only for those 21 years of age or older and while supplies last. Offer expires 12/31/2012.

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Intercourse (Cont'd From Page 40)

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought

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From Seed to Amish Sod, Pea to Pod, Smucker's Gourd Farm Grows Fascinating Art

by Clinton Martin

A -"gourding" to the Smuckers, decorating your home is as easy as using your Gourd, literally. You can hang them as bird houses, fashion them into bird feeders, or for the avian averse, you can stack them as bowls and baskets. If you've stayed with me thus far in spite of the bad puns, I invite you to linger longer and get to know the Smucker family.

The Smuckers, a local Amish family (not the famous strawberry jam tycoons) who farm gourds and turn them into fascinatingly functional decorative pieces, traces farming back genera-

tions, concentrating on the dairy business until a few years ago. Apparently the milk flow was as healthy as ever, but cash flow? Another story. The family knew they had to turn to a different side of the agricultural picture.

Gourds were a fateful discovery as most farmers in Amish Country don't bother with these finicky members of the pumpkin family. The Smuckers have made them their vocation.

Gourds literally come in all shapes and sizes. Once harvested and carefully dried, they can be shellacked, painted, sanded, blasted --- all to become wonderfully artistic creations.

The family business has grown steadily since the first gourds were plucked from the Smucker soils, but don't expect to see a cavernous factory churning out gourds for mass distribution when you visit. The goal of the Smucker family is to continue farming, staying close to home, close to one another, while providing a future for generations to come. You'll enjoy seeing not only where the gourds are grown and how they are crafted, but, if you're like most visitors, you'll be taking home an unusual remembrance of your very special visit.

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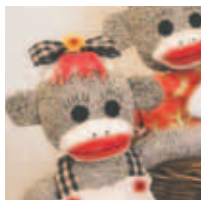
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Author Linda Byler's Sadie Miller Rides Again!

Special to Amish Country News

by Clinton Martin

Bestselling Amish writer, Linda Byler, introduces the second in her series about the Montana adventures of Sadie Miller. In this installment, there's horse trouble again. Only this time, horses aren't being stolen, they're being shot. Snipers are driving a blue pickup and shooting selectively. No hard-working ranch horse or Amish horse and buggy is safe.

Still, Sadie rides, despite daily warnings from Dorothy, Sadie's boss down at the Aspen East Ranch. It seems Dorothy is always trying to

give Sadie advice, but Sadie's getting used to ignoring her nosy employer. Sadie's heart is set on Mark even though Dorothy tells her to steer clear after he ditches her in the middle of their first date. Then Daniel appears—a visitor from Lancaster County. With cornflower-blue

eyes and a strong, square jaw, he is everything that Mark is not. He's funny, well-mannered, and



Continued on Page 46

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Saturday, July 7 – Salsa Saturday **10:30am-3:00pm**

You'll enjoy a taste of our delicious Amish 7/8/9/10 Layer Dip and Salsa Pizza. Dip a corn chip into an amazing sampling of our salsas including Apple, Peach, Corn, Pineapple Mango, and more. **Plus, July 7 only – all Intercourse Canning Company salsas are \$1.00 off!**

Saturday, July 14 – Hot Dog Bash **10:30am-3:00pm**

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Saturday, July 21 – In a Pickle? Take a Dip! **10:30am-3:00pm**

Crunch into our wide assortment of tasty pickles, like Kosher Style Pickles, Garlic Dill Pickles, Grammy Betty's Banana Pickles, Molly's Sweet Pickles, and more. Don't miss our wide variety of gourmet dip mixes, and take home yummy recipes for each selection. **Plus, \$1.00 off July 21 only on all Intercourse Canning Company pickles and dip mixes!**

Saturday, July 28 – Annual Chicken BBQ **10:30am-3:00pm**

Free with a \$40 purchase. Receive a BBQ chicken dinner, side salad, pickle, and chips. Taste all of our BBQ sauces, including Apple Butter BBQ Sauce, Cranberry BBQ Sauce, and Hickory Smoked BBQ Sauce. Our Barn Raisin' Wing Sauce is a perfect alternative for any BBQ recipe. Meals may be purchased for \$5.50 each or \$18.00 for a family meal, which serves 4.

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NEW YORK TIMES Best-selling Author Shelley Shepard Gray Brings Amish Country to Life

by Clinton Martin



Amish people are real, “everyday” people who experience joy, hardship, heartbreak, and certainly romance. While life's emotions for the Amish as played out in the mainstream media are worlds away

from what most Amish experience on a day-to-day basis, the very nature of the “Plain” way of life has made Amish Country a perfect setting for intriguing and enveloping stories with broad appeal.

Author Shelley Shepard Gray captures Amish emotion supremely well in her most recent series, *The Secrets of Crittenden County*. Fans of Gray's books will recall her equally successful *Seasons of Sugarcreek*. The recently released second in the Crittenden stories, *THE SEARCH*, brings particularly insightful attention to the fictional Kentucky Amish community.

Released less than a month ago, this is a page-turning romance novel tinged with mystery as a small devout Amish community is rocked by the murder of a young, “black sheep” neighbor. The body of Perry Bontrager is found in an abandoned well and is the first instance of

foul play in the quiet community in more than 20 years. Detective Luke Reynolds, who is “English” (non-Amish), is brought in to help investigate the crime. As he sets about his task, he faces unexpected feelings for Frannie, the Amish owner of a local bed-and-breakfast inn. Though they butt heads at first, Luke finds himself drawn to Frannie's bedside when she's injured in a kitchen accident, and it becomes clear that Frannie knew Perry better than she let on . . . they'd been secretly courting when he disappeared. Has Luke fallen for the very woman responsible for the crime?

The author's writing finds perhaps its toughest critic in one of her good friends, a woman named Clara who happens to be Amish. The two met on Gray's first visit to Sugarcreek, Ohio when she was traveling with a group of women from her church. The group had come to attend a quilt show in the bustling Amish community, but Shelley had come mostly to research her book's plot lines.

After meeting and befriending Clara, Gray knew she had found an ideal resource for seeking an honest review of her stories. That very next Christmas, they exchanged gifts. Gray gave Clara some home-made kettle corn and a crisp new review copy of her latest book. Clara gave her in return some home-made bread and strawberry jam, and best of all, a glowing stamp of approval for the book!

The third in the Crittenden series, *FOUND*, will go on sale September 4, 2012. While we must keep lips tight about the specifics of the exciting next episode in the series, you'll be eager to see loose threads become tightly woven together as new twists threaten to unravel the peace of the community, and unexpected surprises ultimately reveal true and heartwarming love.

Fortunately, picking up copies of Shelley Shepard Gray's books is easy, as publisher Harper Collins provides many channels for purchase and Gray's popularity assures that her works can be found online or at almost any neighborhood bricks and mortar book store. Locally, try either the Gordonville Bookstore (717-768-3512) or the Main Street Book Shop (800-390-8436).

Mystery & Intrigue In Amish Country

Continued from Page 16

murder when police discover the car's cut brake line.

Chloe takes on the role of amateur sleuth to discover who the intended victim was before the murderer makes a second attempt. Becky's handsome Amish-turned-Mennonite brother, Timothy, a local carpenter, proves friend and confidant along the way. Guided by their deepening faith, they solve the mystery that's rocking this small community.

Look for *A PLAIN DEATH* anywhere books are sold. 🐾

About the author: Amanda Flower is an Agatha-nominated mystery author. In July 2012, Amanda will be debuting her second mystery series, the Applesseed Creek Mystery Series, again set in Ohio's Amish country. Amanda is also an academic librarian for a small college near Cleveland. Visit her online at www.amandaflower.com.

Author Linda Byler's Sadie Miller Rides Again!

Continued from Page 44

completely dedicated to his family. Mark, on the other hand, finds it hard to tell Sadie the secrets of his past. He tells her pieces of the shadowy story, then won't speak to her for weeks.

Sadie's troubles continue at home when she discovers that her youngest sister, Anna, is struggling with bulimia. As Sadie's world spins out of control, her palomino, Paris, remains her sole confidant. But does Sadie put Paris in danger every time they go riding? Or, together, can they discover who these mysterious snipers are? Will Mark help her? Or is he one of the horse-hunters? Why, Sadie wonders desperately, are there so many secrets? Will the truth surface, or is it too hard to bear?

SADIE MILLER, along with 100's of other titles, is available locally at the Main Street Book Shop, located along Route 340 (Old Philadelphia Pike) in the village of Intercourse. See www.ShopsOnMainStreet.com for more information. 🐾

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Sam and Susie Riehl began married life as dairy farmers, just like many other young Amish couples. The family farm was an ideal place to raise a family, to work in a traditional environment.

Susie's mother lived with the couple, and found a useful way to contribute to the family's well-being by making and selling quilts from the basement of the house.

The dairy operation was still priority number one, but the quilts certainly helped the family with an important boost. As time went on, and milk prices continued to lag

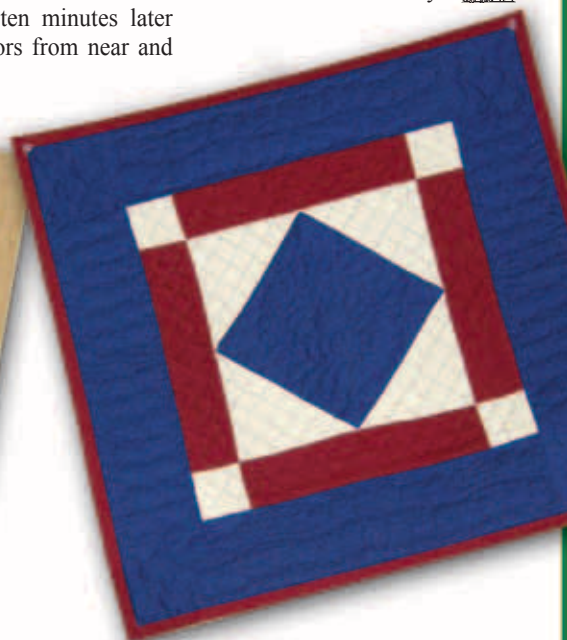
behind the cost of producing it, the quilts became even more important. These days, the dairy cows are gone, having been sent to a budding young farmer just starting out. The farm is still humming with activity however, as hay fields flourish and the barn never is quite empty! The quilt shop has grown and expanded from being in the basement to a stand-alone beautifully constructed store right next to the barn.

It has become a common sight for the Riehl family to be hitching up the team of horses for some field work, and then ten minutes later be greeting visitors from near and

far, helping them find just the right quilt. Just as the quilt business has grown, so too has their line of locally hand-made products.

Nineteen years later, you can find an excellent variety of quilts, crafts, canned goods, books, and of course the interesting multi-use "quillow" that you'll just have to go and ask about.

All in all, the family business is supported by no less than 70 local Amish families that produce goods for sale, work in the shop, or lend a hand in other ways. 



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All The World's On Stage in Amish Country

by Clinton Martin



With reference after reference as to how Amish Country shows up on stage and screen in these pages, it is certainly appropriate that we point out how the world shows up in our own theatres. Act 1 may have been uncovering how Hollywood loves to portray our Amish community, but Act 2 follows with a rousing chorus of the exceptional theatre fare found here.

The oldest continuously operating theater in America is Lancaster City's very own Fulton Theatre, a National Historic Landmark. More than 150 years have passed since the first performance took the stage at the ornate Fulton "Opera House," with those that followed having drawn such American icons as George M. Cohan and Mark Twain. Broadway-quality shows like *LES MIZ* and world premiere productions have given the theatre national recognition.

Long before the Fulton opened, our next performance venue had been welcoming illustrious guests of the day. Of course, nobody knew it would eventually end up a theatre. The grand Mount Hope Estate was built as a private residence between 1800-1805 and passed through many generations of the Grubbs, an early American iron master family that amassed

a considerable fortune from their Lancaster furnaces. In 1979, the property was purchased and slowly returned to its former glory, not as a residential mansion, but as an historic winery estate featuring live theater and outdoor festivals.

Today, visitors roam the rooms of the mansion for intimate performances, including the popular Poe Evermore in November and Dickens of a Christmas in December. The estate grounds now host one of PA's most famous outdoor events, the rollicking late summer Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire featuring hundreds of costumed performers, 90 exciting shows daily, and, yes of course, knights clashing on the spectacular jousting field.

In fact, Amish Country News owes its most memorable moment in our 23 year history to this very event, when one of our covers sporting an image of a ferocious knight atop a colorfully decorated horse was spoofed by Jay Leno on *THE TONIGHT SHOW*. The joke, of course, was the

notion that the Amish had taken up lance, armor, and shield to settle disputes!

For an emotional, yet accurate look at our Amish neighbors, the Amish Experience Theater's five-screen, special effects production of *JACOB'S CHOICE* is a must-see. The show's Hollywood connection is very real, as the costumes seen in the filming were those used by Universal Studios in the movie *WITNESS*, including Harrison Ford's Amish coat with the initials "HF" sewn on the inside pocket.

No mention of our theatre scene is complete without reference to Sight and Sound's Millennium Theatre, the largest Christian theater in the world. In fact, in recent years millions of theater-goers have come to associate Sight and Sound with Amish Country. Born of humble beginnings, founders Glenn Eshelman and his wife Shirley began with a traveling show of slide projectors

Continued on Page 52

Once a Movie House, Now a Delightful Dining Experience... The Ritz on Main

by Clinton Martin

New Holland's Ritz on Main was once a theatre, and while some of the old-timers from the neighborhood might argue they miss the "moving pictures," both visitors and locals freely proclaim their joy that the Ritz is now a great place to grab a tasty bite and sip a pint. A real bonus is in store when you take a look at the Ritz's event schedule, featuring live bands, stand-up comedians, and other fun happenings to enjoy along with a satisfying meal.

The Ritz's menu centers mostly on succulent sandwiches, crispy fries, and familiar fare prepared exceptionally well. As one die-hard fan noted on the Ritz's Facebook site, "Good food at reasonable prices, relaxed and friendly atmosphere, great staff that are very friendly & accommodating and always a good time. We'll be adding the Ritz on Main to our list of regular spots!"

Look for the Ritz's art deco marquee along Route 23 Main Street) in the unique and interesting little town of New Holland near the intersection of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. Call 717.351.7489 for hours and current entertainments. 🚗



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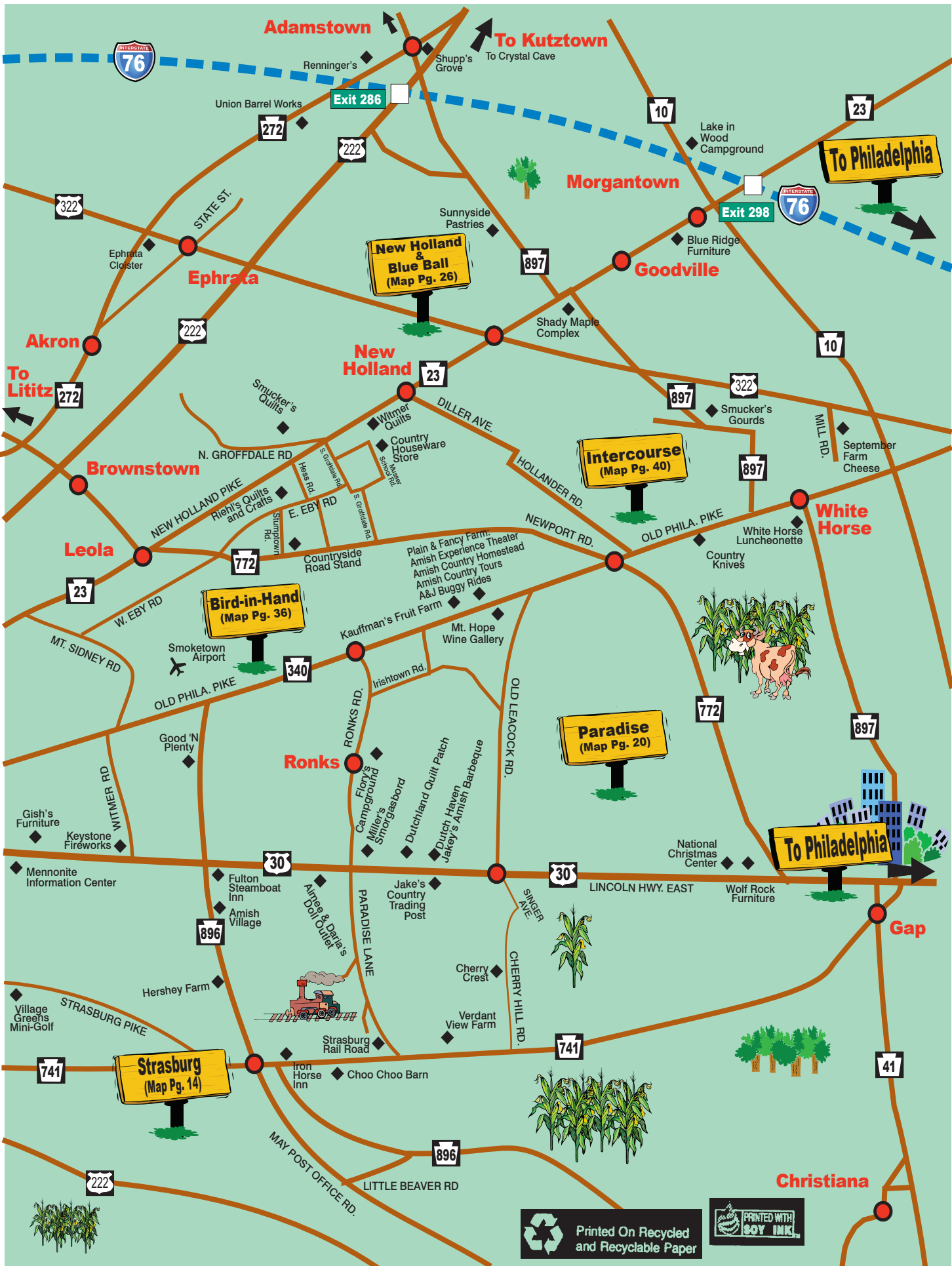
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Union Barrel Works

Thousands of refreshing craft brews quaffed, countless bowls of soup sipped dry, and enough “cleaned” plates to stretch from one side of Amish Country to the other – measure five years of success at Union Barrel Works in Reamstown. When brewmaster and owner Tom Rupp bought an old, worn-out brick building on the square in this little village, most locals probably thought he was soon to open the next “former” use for the stately, yet tired town landmark.

To the contrary, revitalization was the word with the opening of a cutting edge brew-pub with great old-world charm. Tom invites you to celebrate the Work’s fifth anniversary with new features for his delicious and unique food line, crisp and clean lagers and ales, and an atmosphere unmatched by other “hop houses” in the area.

If you’d like my recommendation, try pairing the wild boar sausages with a side of warm soft pretzels and spicy mustard. Add a generous pour of UBW’s Pale Ale.

Finding your way to Union Barrel Works is easy. Turn off Route 272 North of Lancaster between Ephrata and Adamstown onto W. Church St. The parking area is well-marked. UBW is open every day except Monday. 

All The World’s On Stage in Amish Country

Continued from Page 49

and recorded music. It is surely divine inspiration and years of hard work that have transformed those slide and “dancing waters” shows into mammoth live musical productions of JONAH and NOAH in a 2,000+ seat theatre with a 300-foot wrap-around stage with 40 foot high sets that tops anything seen on Broadway.

Receiving a “Wow!” is hard enough in today’s theater scene, but bringing down the house performance after performance is way more difficult. Add putting consistently good food on the table, and the bar is raised that much higher. Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre does it all, its success as much a part of its skilled chefs as the exceptional talent on stage.

Dutch Apple was founded nearly 20 years ago by Tom, Deborah, and Will Prather. The Prather family had been producing shows many years before, so the Dutch Apple wasn’t exactly their first effort drawing back the curtain. Today, the theater sells out the intimate 380-seat space regularly, hosting upwards of 150,000 guests a year, with shows from LEGALLY BLONDE to FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

Another not-to-miss show currently on stage is Beverly Lewis’ THE CONFESSION, an inspiring musical that is both an Amish love story and a suspenseful mystery with a touch of comedy. The Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant opened its intimate staging area in the lower level of the restaurant and most Confession-goers enjoy the many PA Dutch smorgasbord specialties before or after the performance. The Bird-in-Hand Restaurant & Stage sits on land that has been in the Smucker family for generations, for many years strictly a farm. With the advent of tourism,

the Smuckers built a small inn and the family business grew in many ways, including the restaurant which has long been a favorite of visitor and local alike. Their roots intact, the Smuckers still farm the land nearby.

There are two other local theatres of note. At Rainbow Dinner Theatre, laughter is indeed the best medicine, and the DiSavino family is proud to say they are the only all-comedy, all-the-time live theatre in Amish Country.

Lastly, the American Music Theatre is well-known for its sought-after celebrity series and its lively original song-and-dance reviews, including a delightful Christmas show.

Armed with this knowledge of our exciting theatre scene, I suggest you plan to fit one or many shows into your itinerary. Here’s where you’ll find out more: 

Amish Country Theatre Guide

- **Fulton Theatre**
717-397-7425 • fultontheatre.org
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PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

What Is It About The Amish?

by Brad Igou



Recently one night as I was waiting to turn onto Route 340 and head home, an Amishman came by on his scooter. He too, I presumed, was on his way home. Of course I noticed him, but a man going by on a scooter in shorts with green spiked hair and tattoos would have caught my attention even more. Millions of vacationers don't visit us hoping for that vision. So, what is it about the Amish?

Personally, I've been fascinated by the Amish for a long time. I vaguely remember one Sunday when we first moved to Lancaster. We went to the Strasburg Rail Road, as Dad and I both liked trains. In those days, but not anymore, Amish boys would line up and offer rides in their open buggies, not unlike the carriage rides in New York's Central Park. I don't remember where we went that day, but this strange, yet fun experience of a horse and buggy ride is my earliest memory of the Amish.

The movie WITNESS was released in 1985 while I was teaching in Japan. In a way, thanks to the

star power of Harrison Ford, it was the 1980's equivalent of the Amish "going viral." When the film's 20th anniversary rolled around, people came, as they still do, from all over the world to see the "Witness Farm." One reporter wrote, "Everything I know about the Amish I learned from the movie WITNESS."

With the theme of this issue, and the revelations in my year-long "Amish in the Media" series, there is little doubt that the Amish still hold a fascination for many Americans. Amish romance novels are best sellers. PBS, National Geographic, and many other networks continue to produce new documentaries. TV networks regularly insert Amish in their plots and reality TV shows.

So, back to the man on the scooter. What makes him that different and so intriguing? The beard and clothing certainly set him apart, although anyone could certainly dress that way; but the fact that he was committed to driving a scooter instead of a car --- now that provoked some interesting self-exploration about our lives...

- Slow pace vs. fast.
- Simplicity vs. technological overload.
- Community vs. the individual.
- Communicating face to face vs. Facebook or Twitter.

So, What Is It About The Amish?

Writer Susan Trollinger feels it has something to do with nostalgia. Sure, the Amish are strangely fascinating, but not as a science fiction vision of our future. They seem more a throwback to the past and a different way of living, although they are very much in the present, evolving in their lives as we are in our own. They share our space, but not our time. Is it a nostalgic look back at faith, family, community, and conviction, all difficult for us these days? Trollinger concludes SELLING THE AMISH with these thoughts...

It seems to me that, for as long as we have eyes to see the Amish as strange, they will ask us whether we have the courage or the creativity or the vision or the faith to embrace a future that we have not yet seen and in which we become, in the context of this all-consuming culture, truly strange ourselves.

Indeed, as the Amish may seem strange to us, surely we must seem strange to them. Remember the Amishman's warning to Harrison Ford at the end of WITNESS, "You be careful out among them English." Perhaps I need to be asking not "What is it about the Amish?" but rather, "What is it about us?" 

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What's Coming Up In Our August Issue?

We could just as easily call this issue, "What CAN'T You Do In Amish Country?" From nationally recognized events to undiscovered hidden gems, we'll be featuring the amazing variety of ways to spend rewarding days in Amish Country. After perusing these pages, you'll find yourself Chief Amish Country Family Fun Officer as you spend a day with a knight, walk the aisles of one of the most prestigious craft shows in America, and find yourself "jammin'" at the Intercourse Canning Company.



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